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Soviet radar tied to satellite-killer system

WASHINGTON [AP]—A huge, high-power radar installation being built in central Siberia is most likely intended for use with an advanced Soviet satellite-killer system, the Federation of American Scientists said Sunday.

The group said Moscow's evident determination to press forward with work on the phased-array radar "provides further incentive for the negotiation of limitations on antisatellite weapons."

But contrary to a Reagan administration report to Congress, the group concluded that the radar installation does not appear to violate terms of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile [ABM] Treaty.

"Although the radar could make a contribution to ABM battle management, it is not optimized for this task," the federation said in a study.

The group, a Washington-based organization of more than 5,000 scientists, has been sharply critical of administration arms-control policies.

IT SAID THE radar at Abalakova, a village 130 miles north of the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, was "ideally located to provide targeting information

for an advanced Soviet ASAT [antisatellite system] that could attack and destroy satellites while they were over Soviet territory."

The group also questioned other aspects of the administration report, released Jan. 23, which had accused Moscow of "violations and probable violations" involving the ABM, Strategic Arms Limitation and Threshold Test Ban Treaties.

"Given the ambiguity of some of the treaty provisions, as well as the inconclusive nature of the U.S. evidence, few if any of the alleged violations can be proven," the federation said.

White House spokesman Robin Gray declined comment. At the Pentagon, spokesman Jim Turner said the Defense Department also would have no comment.

But Rep. Jim Courter [R., N.J.], a member of the House Armed Services Committee and cochairman of the congressional Military Reform Caucus, said he disagreed that the radar was designed for antisatellite use.

"I HAVE SEEN no credible evidence to cor-

roborate that novel argument," said Courter, who has examined classified data on the issue. "By far the most likely use of that radar is for ABM battle management, which is an integral part of an ABM system."

Courter said in an interview he was concerned that President Reagan has not gone far enough in disclosing evidence of Soviet treaty violations. "I think that the administration is soft-peddling the issue," he said.

Courter has introduced a resolution seeking release of a separate, more extensive report prepared by the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control. The measure is to be considered Wednesday by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The ABM Treaty permits deployment of only one antiballistic missile system by each side. The Soviets' ABM system deployed around Moscow continues to be operational, though a U.S. system built to defend missile silos near Grand Forks, N.D., quickly was scrapped.